

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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The following information is supplementary to the Order of Battle of the Albanian forces of 14 April 1948. The repercussions of the Tito-Cominform dispute had apparently not yet affected the Yugoslav role in the Albanian military picture.

1. The Assistant Minister of National Defense is General Hristo Temenkov, the former chief of the Political Department of the General Staff. The Minister of Communications is General Mehmed Shehu, who was formerly Minister of National Defense. The new Minister of National Defense is as yet not known.
2. The following units are stationed ~~at~~ Tirana, but are not on the T/O of any established division: an armored brigade, a heavy artillery regiment, a newly formed engineer brigade which was reported in June 1948 as having been transferred from Tirana to Berat, an automobile detachment and technical service unit, and a military hospital which is installed in the former Industrial School building.
3. The reorganization and rearming of Albanian troops is continuing. The infantry is now armed with Soviet semi-automatic rifles. The new arms and material are sent from Yugoslavia to Tirana and then to Podgradec and Gjinokaster. The unloading and transshipment of this material always takes place at night.
4. The reorganization of the army is made difficult by the shortage of competent officers. The most capable men were removed from the army during the most recent purge. The device of temporarily filling up the officer vacancies with Soviets, Yugoslavs and Bulgarians has proved unsuitable because of language difficulties.
5. In June 1948 thirty field guns and some hundreds of heavy and light machine guns were sent from Yugoslavia by the Skopje-Debar-Elbasan road. Ammunition for these weapons arrived in Yugoslav vessels at Drac.
6. The 1929 class has been called up. Compulsory pre-conscription training has been introduced for persons from 14 to 19 years of age. Twenty auxiliary battalions, whose function has as yet not been determined, have been formed of fit men who have not been called up. For the present, those men liable for service remain at home awaiting orders.

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7. The police force (DMP) has been increased to over 15,000 men. The following new companies have been formed: one railroad company at Tirana, two port companies at Vlone and Drac, and one gasoline company (sic) at Kucove.
8. Work continues on fortifications, particularly in the coastal belt from the mouth of the Shkumbi to Konispol and the Greek frontier. Artillery positions of permanent and semi-permanent types have been observed in Epinus, on the island of Saseno and near Monte Logora and Karaburun. All the fortifications have been carried out under the direction of Yugoslav experts led by Engineer General Ljubisa Hadzi-Popovic.
9. The airfield at Vivari near Butrintit is a newly built base. The field at Scutari has no aircraft. At the Tirana airfield there is a pilot school with about 250 pupils. This school is in charge of Yugoslav experts.
10.
11. The chief of the Soviet Military Mission in Albania is General Nikolai Ilic Sepenko.

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